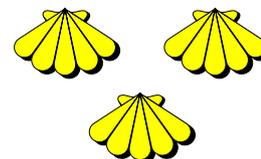


High Wych C E Primary School

Founded in 1861



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'This continues to be a Good School' Ofsted March 18

Autumn Newsletter

Year 5 - Blue Class

Welcome to Year 5 and another exciting term. I hope you had a great summer holiday and are looking forward to the year ahead. I am really looking forward to working with you and your children this year. Here is a brief outline of the main topics we will be covering this term.

Reading is an important part of your child's learning. Please continue to read with your child **at least 5 times each week** - it really does make a difference to your child's development. Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have read - comprehension is as important as identifying the words themselves. This year we will be reading and discussing texts as a whole class, which will replace our usual guided reading sessions. This will expand pupil's vocabulary and deepen their understanding of texts through explicit whole class teaching daily. Children will still be expected to read good quality (age appropriate) texts five days a week and should record this in their reading record for the teacher to monitor. Please note that it is the number of days, not the number of times they have read. This includes books from home. Those children that are reading 5 times a week will be rewarded with extra play. Reading records will be checked every Friday.

In English, we will be working to develop our skills in narrative writing, poetry and biography writing. Spelling, grammar and handwriting will also be taught on a regular basis. The children will continue with Big Writing in order to further develop their independent writing skills. We will be reading 'Friend or Foe' by Michael Morpurgo and using this story to further inspire and develop the children's writing.

Homework will be sent home on Fridays and due back the following Wednesday. The focus for homework will be a times tables task, a spelling rule task and reading. In addition, the children will be set half-termly projects, which will be based on topics being studied at school. I will give more information on these nearer the time. The children may have additional homework to support their learning.

Spellings

Children will be given a spelling rule each week rather than a set of words to learn. The children will then need to find their own words, in a variety of multi-modal texts, where their spelling rule is applied. The children then need to record their words and complete a sentence for each word to ensure their understanding. The children will share these words in class and be involved in a deeper discussion that observes familiar patterns and rules within spellings. We feel this will benefit the children to understand and apply spelling rules or patterns to a variety of words and enhance their ability to spell unknown words through using this knowledge. The children will be tested fortnightly on the spelling rules. At the start of each year your child will be given a list of 'Common Exception Words'. These are a list of words provided by the National Curriculum that are an exception to the rules taught. Please could you help your children to gradually learn these spellings by having them displayed in your home and visiting them little and often. We will be testing the children on these words



termly and discussing them in class to find ways to help them remember each spelling. Pneumonics such as 'big elephants can't always use small exits' to learn how to spell 'because', are proven most effective in helping your child learn these words.

In Maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction in many forms and be describing and visualising 3D and 2D shapes. We will suggest suitable units and measuring equipment to estimate or measure length, mass and capacity. We will develop strategies to count on and back in repeated steps of different numbers. We will use all four operations to solve word problems involving money and measures. We will also be looking at multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages. A sound knowledge of times tables, up to and including times twelve, is essential and any opportunity for your child to practise their times tables will be of considerable benefit to them across a range of maths topics.

We will begin with the unit 'Forces' in Science. Within this unit we will look at why objects fall towards the Earth and identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces. We will investigate and recognise some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears.

In RE the children will begin to learn about Judaism and Christianity and how they are similar and different to each other. In the lead up to Christmas we will look in detail at the events surrounding the birth of Christ and the significance of Advent as time of preparation.

In Art we will be concentrating on the artist Pablo Picasso and 'Cubism'. We will have a close look at his life and various styles of his work.

In ICT the children will analyse and evaluate a range of digital films and animations, understanding how film and animation can be used to inform, persuade and entertain targeted audiences.

In Geography, the children will find out about the regions of the United Kingdom, discovering how some of these areas have changed over time. The children will research how specific areas of the UK have been affected by change, before conducting a fieldwork activity on our area and writing a magazine article.

For our History topic we will look at Ancient Egypt, concentrating on where and when this ancient civilisation first appeared and what their achievements were. We will be visiting Hertford Theatre on the 17th October to see the Horrible Histories Awful Egyptians show, more details to follow.

Herts Music Service will continue to work with the First Access children every Friday. They will have another music lesson with Mrs Earl where they will learn cyclic patterns (exploring rhythm and pulse) and work on their vocal skills in preparation for the Harvest Festival. The second part of the term, the children will explore 'rounds', songs related to Ancient Egypt and develop their vocal skills ready for the Christmas service.

In P.E. we will be developing our skills within dance and gymnastics. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit, royal blue T-shirt, navy shorts or skorts and plimsolls or trainers, all clearly labelled. As the weather becomes colder, you may wish to provide your child with jogging bottoms too. Swimming will take place this term - letters will be sent home soon.

In French, the children will initially learn how to say, read and spell different pets.

Please continue to provide your child with fruit or vegetables for snack each day and they will also need a water bottle too please.

As always, if you ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange a mutual time to meet. I look forward to a great year with you all.

Mrs Collins, Class teacher

